News Notes
from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
257 FOURTH AVENUE NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

Volume V, Number 18 March 1959

HOLBROOK LIBRARY
PACIFIC SCHOOL
RELIGION

Comments on the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Higher Education at Omaha are most encouraging.

"The Commission is really finding itself and taking hold."
"I never thought a few years ago that this Commission could take on the serious discussion of the questions raised here."
"This has been a most worthwhile meeting."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

For those who wish to see copies of the Annual Report of the Commission and its Units, they are available upon request.

Among the important actions taken:

- Approved the merger of the United Student Christian Council, Student Volunteer Movement, and Interseminary Movement into the National Student Christian Federation and provided for its relationship to the Commission.
- Approved a plan for working at the problem of Faculty Enlistment and Placement as soon as funds become available.
- Expressed opposition to the Loyalty Oath Provision in the National Education Defense Act. This was subsequently supported by the Division of Christian Education and then the General Board of the National Council of Churches.
- Recognized the retirement of Dr. Gould Wickey as Executive Secretary of the United Lutheran Board of Higher Education after many years of outstanding service.
- Approved plans for the formation of a Policy Committee to give overall guidance to the concerns of the Commission if funds are made available to implement it.
- Welcomed the formation of the Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities.

1960 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1960 Annual Meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, February 14-15. Unit meetings will start February 11. Put the date down now so that it may be kept clear.

OUTLER ADDRESS AVAILABLE

Just off the press is the full text of Albert Outler's address, "Quid Est Veritas?", delivered at the Inaugural Dinner of the Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities, January 6, 1959. Also included is President Fred Holloway's Inaugural Statement and the Proceedings. Some of the churches are making them available in quantity. Some college presidents are ordering copies for distribution to the faculty. (Cost 10¢ each - $10.00 per 100. Order from the Commission office)

Having just returned from the National Conference on Higher Education of the National Educational Association with a new stack of mimeographed material, we conclude again that the biggest problem of administrators in education is finding time to read and think. Most of us read as we run but when do we ponder and meditate on what we read?

A number of things were said at this conference that we need to think about - not just hear -

- Item - Harold W. Stoke, President of Queen's College, after describing the previous ends of American higher education as religious "to serve God and assist in establishing His kingdom", democratic citizens "thoughtful independent minds" "we are now entering a third period" in which a new force, "Nationalism" threatens to overshadow them. "Education is an instrument of power on which national survival itself depends". Educators now have a new obligation, imperative and superior to any other, to keep the nation strong. The interventions of the federal government now are no longer accelerating the general intellectual and social benefits of education, they are made directly and self-consciously for the purpose of carrying out its own responsibilities. Education must give the government what it wants and must have. "The requirements must be accepted." Incidental effect - "the new compulsion resolves many of our old conflicts. For years debates about federal aid to education have centered around issues of support for private or public institutions, of church and state, between federal and local control. National necessity smoothly obliterates these deep differences into a new unity of agreement ..... our other differences must give way to national necessity."

IS THERE AGREEMENT ON THIS?

- Item - Frank H. Bowles, President of the College Entrance Examination Board, made a thought-provoking survey of what he thinks are the trends in higher education. The role of the secondary school is now fixed. It no longer has freedom to set new goals, plan new programs, accept new responsibilities. "The need for diversity is increasing." "Undergraduate colleges .... cannot retain form and status as colleges and offer a diverse program .... if they try, they face the choice of moving toward university status .... or of scattering and enfeebling their programs and moving toward a vocational junior college status." "The university has now replaced the undergraduate college as the dominant unit in higher education .... domination of educational thought, the setting of academic patterns, determination of intellectual goals, the capacity to create an atmosphere of stability or change." He then goes on to describe and make comparisons of the four regional university groupings - Eastern Seaboard, Middle Western, West Coast, and Southern.

OR THIS?

- Item - An excellent survey of "The Literature in Higher Education" by Lewis B. Mayhew of Stevens College and Michigan State University. "A strikingly small number of volumes rest on scientific experimentation and empirical study." He concludes by suggesting some needs. "There is still no good definitive but analytical treatment of existing types of collegiate education." There needs to be a volume soundly based on research on the smaller liberal arts colleges." "There is a crying need for soundly based works on the philosophy of higher education."

BIBLIOGRAPH

Suggestion: Every college president should have some one on the campus who will keep informed on what is being said and written in this whole field. All of us need to make some time to think about the implications of what we read.

Accompanying this issue of "News Notes" is the special NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY issue of Information Service. Again we thank Dr. Benson Landis for his co-operation in providing this resource material. Single copy, 20¢; 50 copies, $7.50; 100 copies, $12.50; 150 copies, $17.50.

NATIONAL

CHRISTIAN

COLLEGE

DAY

MATERIAL

Copies of the special Church and College issue of the International Journal of Christian Education, produced last year, are still available. Single copies - 25¢ each.

Discussion Material

"What Is a Christian College?" - 50¢
"The Theological Idea of The University" - George H. Williams - $1.00
"The University and the Church" - Harold K. Schilling - 25¢
"Three Questions" - Marjorie Reeves - Free.

New Pamphlets

"The Church and the University" - Jacques De Senarclens - 10¢ each
"The Role of the Church in Higher Education" - Harold K. Schilling -10¢ each
(These two available from the Department of Campus Christian Life, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., 800 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa.)

Other materials are available from some denominational offices of Higher Education.

Worth reading is Robert M. Hutchin's testimony of faith in democracy published by the Fund for the Republic under the title, "Is Democracy Possible?"

HUTCHINS

ON

DEMOCRACY

"We might as well make up our minds to it. If our hopes of democracy are to be realized, every citizen of this country is going to have to be educated to the limit of his capacity and I don't mean trained, amused, accommodated, or adjusted. I mean that his intellectual power will have to be developed."

"Our real problems are also concealed from us by our current remarkable prosperity, which results in part from the production of arms that we do not expect to use, and in part from our new way of getting rich, which is to buy things from one another we do not want at prices we cannot pay, on terms we cannot meet because of advertising we do not believe."

Congratulations:

- to the Christian Century for its issue of February 18 - "Church Architecture 1959 - Creation or Cliche". It should be read not only by church people but by church college people. The article has a pertinence to our church college buildings as well as to churches. Plenty of colleges reveal in their architecture that their philosophy of education is either absent, confused, or clearly secular, and many college chapels are architectural anomolies.

CHURCH

ARCHITECTURE

- to Union Theological Seminary, New York, and to the Danforth Foundation upon the announcement of the Danforth Professorship of Religion in Higher Education. The program envisages collaboration with Columbia University and Teachers' College. It will have two major objectives - a comprehensive and continuous re-assessment of the proper role of Religion in Higher Education in the light of American pluralism - prepare at the Master's and Doctor's levels candidates for faculty appointments in religion.

NEW

PROFESSORSHI

- to Occidental College upon having two of its students awarded Rhodes Scholarships.

- to Rice Institute on the Dedication of its beautiful Memorial Chapel.

HOLBROOK LIBRARY
PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

Important Dates to Record -

1959

- April 30 - May 1 -- National Association of College and University Chaplains, Pittsburgh,Pa.
- June 26-28 -- Church College Trustees Conference, Junaluska, N.C.
- July 12 -- One-Day Conference for Church College Public Relations Officers, preceding the ACPRA Conference, French Lick, Ind.
- August 24-28 -- Faculty Fellowship Conference, Montreat, N.C.
- September 6-7 -- Inaugural Assembly of the National Student Christian Federation, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
- September 7-12 -- Consultation on the Meaning of the Secular, University Teachers' Committee on WSCF, Bossey, Switzerland
- December 27-31 -- Student Volunteer Movement Quadrennial Conference, Athens, Ohio

1960

- January 12 -- Annual Meeting, Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities, Boston, Mass.
- February 12-15 -- Annual Meeting, Commission on Higher Education,St. Louis

The University of Redlands has just issued a booklet, "Christian Faith and Practice at the University of Redlands". In it the University seeks to interpret the meaning of its Christian commitment. It distinguishes between the nature and function of the church and the nature and function of the university. It then goes on to say why it feels the University of Redlands is Christian.

Church-related colleges and universities, as opposed to their larger and more numerous secular brothers, produced the greatest number of practitioners sufficiently outstanding to be listed in Who's Who in America, of what are termed the "dedicated professions." This was revealed in the latest bulletin of Educational Philanthropy, published by the Educational Department of Who's Who. "Dedicated professions" include educators, clergy, doctors of medicine, librarians, and scientists.

DEDICATED
PROFESSIO

The Faculty Christian Fellowship has resumed publication of its Bulletin, to appear six to eight times a year. It is available in bulk order for $4.00 per 100 or $1.00 a year for single subscriptions. FCF members receive the Bulletin as a service covered by their dues. The January issue includes a discussion of Le Fevre's, The Christian Teacher, news and announcements of FCF activity around the country.

What could we say when asked recently if it was a good idea for colleges and universities that have chapel services to give students and faculty an opportunity to help support the Commission on Higher Education through a special offering? Rather naturally we think it a good idea and for reasons as well as prejudice. As the speaker went on to say, it is a "natural" for the institutions that hold interdenominational services or have a student-supported budget and wish to have a part in furthering Christian higher education at the ecumenical level. Such contributions may help the Commission as a whole or may be designated for a particular Unit.

Hubert C. Noble
General Director
Commission on Higher Education